



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
September 9th, 2014
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker
Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator
Stephen King, State Trooper
Makayla Lamson, E.O Smith Student Representative
Larry Barlow, MMS Assistant Principal
Frank Perrotti, Assistant Chair, Resident

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- 6/10/2014 Minutes (correction of previous Advisory Board meeting date)

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Pat Schneider was unable to attend this month's meeting.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - Pat Michalak was unable to attend this month's meeting. Kate Bohannon, Youth Services Social Worker, reported.
 - Middle School Transitional Support: YSB staff facilitated mentoring relationships between high school students and rising EO Smith freshmen.
 - Elementary School Transitional Support: YSB staff in collaboration with middle school counselors hosted a luncheon and private tour for incoming

fifth grade students for whom the transition to middle school may be difficult.

- Middle School Girls' Leadership Group: Middle school girls attended a confidence and leadership building trip to the Storrs Adventure Park. Makayla Lamson, an EO Smith senior, worked in conjunction with YSB staff to help organize this opportunity as part of her senior project.
 - Ongoing Groups: Multi-Family Group, Parent Support Groups, Grief Group, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group all met throughout the summer to provide ongoing support to children and families.
 - Crisis Intervention: YSB staff intervened in crisis situations and supported children and families this summer at the request of summer camps, summer school, school administrators, and community members, including a young family whose father was killed in a traffic accident.
 - Adventure Learning Training: Kate Bohannon attended a week long adventure learning training hosted by the High 5 Adventure Learning Center. Kate learned leadership, confidence, and trust building activities as well as how to safely operate high and low ropes course elements.
 - Fundraising for the Mansfield Community Playground: The playground committee sold popcorn and lemonade at the MCC Summer Concerts and raised \$355. The 5K Run for the Playground (put on by the Windham Athletic Club) and the Kids Run for the Playground occurred on July 12th. A total of \$1961 was raised. The Town of Mansfield received \$100,000 in State Bond money for the playground. The total raised to date is \$370,000.
 - School Readiness: All 18 School Readiness slots have been filled for the 2014-15 academic year. There are seven full-time slots, five part-time slots, and 6 school day slots.
- Teen Center Update- Jared Redmond
 - The Teen Center was updated during the Community Center shutdown week and new supplies and activities were purchased. Jared reports that the teen center is well attended and the Community Center staff continues to explore new ways to attract teens.

IV. Old Business:

- Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund
 - YSB staff distributed all available campership funds to help over 100 Mansfield children attend various camps this summer.

V. New Business:

- Southeast School Psychologist position support
 - YSB staff will be providing school psychological support for Southeast students until a new school psychologist is hired.
- Integration of Early Childhood Services into Youth Services
 - This integration extends services and supports to families with younger children, making it easier for Mansfield families to access clinical supports, advocacy, positive youth development, and community resources.

VI. Other:

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:30, October 14th, 2014 is the next meeting.